

REMARKS

The only issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed December 16, 2005, are the rejections under 35 U.S.C §112 and the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Reconsideration of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 1 - 18, 20 - 22, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph. It is argued, at page 2 of the Office Action that the present disclosure does not enable panels in which there is more than one distribution chamber. Applicants again respectfully disagree with this analysis. It is not seen that the language, "each panel comprising *a* chamber" is exclusive of panels comprising more than one chamber. Indeed, the language is *not* "each panel comprising *one* chamber." In any event, for business reasons unrelated to patentability, Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to recite that "said panels" comprise a single distribution chamber. It is thus respectfully submitted that this issue is moot.

Claims 1 - 18, 20 - 22, 24 and 25 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. This rejection is also based on the alleged failure to recite the "arguably essential" limitation that all of the panels must have a single distribution chamber. Accordingly, this issue is also moot, and withdrawal of this portion of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 20, 21 and 25 have been rejected as it is argued that the other end of the bypass line must be connected to the distribution chamber. Indeed, this is believed inherent in the recitation of the claim, however, the claims have been clarified. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore also respectfully requested.

Statement of Common Ownership

Commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,797,175 and the present application were commonly owned, at the time of the invention of the present application, by Institut Francais du Petrole. Thus, it is submitted that no rejection under 35 U.S.C §102(e)(f) or (g) should be made.

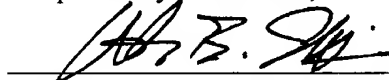
Double Patenting

Claims 1 - 18, 20 - 22 and 24 - 26 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 - 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,797, 175. It is submitted that the attached Terminal Disclaimer renders this rejection moot.

Accordingly, the claims of the present application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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